

September-October 2012 Volume 40, Issue 5



Linda Fawcett, Director Lindsey Jordan, Adm. Asst. Sue Adkins, Adm. Asst. Email: pcv@grandtraverse.org

**

Fall is in the air! Save the Date







Transporter Training Refresher

All Volunteer Transporters or Volunteers who would like to know more about the transportation program, should attend.

We will meet for dinner and a review of our procedures and trouble shoot some scenarios for volunteer transporters.

When:

Thursday, September 13, 2012 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Where:

Multi-Purpose Room next to our offices.

RSVP: 922-4827

Citizen Volunteers are Needed!

Spread the word that Probate & Family Court
Volunteer Services is holding a Pre-Service Orientation.

When: Oct. 1, 3 and 10, 2012. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

This in-service will have information about opportunities to volunteer in prevention, probation and guardianship.

Attention: Truancy Teaching Staff

We will re-group, re-write, and plan for the new year.

When:

Thursday, September 6, 2012 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Where:

Conference Room in our Offices

RSVP: 922-4827



Save the Date: September 18, 2012 4:00-6:30 p.m.

The September CASA Meeting will be combined with Learning Partners monthly meeting for an encore presentation of the film "Darkness to Light"-understanding and the detection of child sexual abuse.

Facilitator, Dr. Amelia Siders, from The Child Advocacy Center will be presenting this information. Learning Partners and all interested volunteers, as well as CASA's are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Those who attended this showing two years ago, are encouraged to join for a refresher.

RSVP: 922-4827

Michigan CASA Conference! Reserve your spot today.

When: Friday and Saturday November 2-3, 2012

Where: Park Place Hotel, Traverse City *Registration Info. Coming Soon!

Happy Birthday



September:

Alfa Binkley
Jennifer Carlson
Nancy Crandall
James Dawson
Margaret Gove
Violet Brott
Barbara Counsell
Sue Soderberg
Dolores Rode

Rachel Mayes
Sue Noakes
Robyn Savory
David Speirs
Jim Valko
Sara Stargardt
Robin Komrska
James Doman
Joseph Fraser

October:

Patricia Bowen
Amber Buist
Diane Cowley
Michael Herron
Jeri Cooke
Philip Hamburg
MaryAnn Wichtner
Alexander Moore
Bradford Purcell
Diana Zapalski

Paul Hathaway
Patty Marar
Margaret-Olsen
Biggar
Dick Parks
Marilyn Vlach
Eileen Larsen
Jeana Paque
Thelma Weber

We are saddened to hear of the loss of CASA
Volunteer, Marie
Hanis' s Father, as well as, the sudden loss of Amanda
Flowers, Deputy
Probate Register's,
Mother. Our thoughts are with them both during this difficult time.

Dear Volunteers:

I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Sue and I have accepted the position of Office Clerk in the front office. Below, I have included some information about myself as we get to know one another.

Professionally, I was previously employed for four years by Traverse Health Clinic as their Dental Access Program Coordinator. I was responsible for coordinating several non-profit programs in five counties helping low-income, uninsured adults gain access to dental care and also teaching dental health education to elementary children within the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Previous to this position, I was Director and Owner of my own Nationally Accredited (NAFCC) home preschool for ten years serving many families in the area. I have an extensive early childhood education background and look forward to using this and my many years of administrative experience to add great value to this department.

Personally, I am married to my wonderful husband, Thomas, and between the two of us we have five children: Taylor 18, Josh 17, Jordan 16, Nick 15, and Kayla 11. We enjoy everything outdoors: hiking,

backpacking, camping, disc golf, kayaking, swimming, boating, and geo-caching. Lastly, I hold an Associate Degree in Business with emphasis in Medical Office Specialist, and I enjoy taking continuing education classes to learn new things.

I have enjoyed meeting some of you already and look forward to meeting



the rest of you. I am truly amazed by your dedication to our department and the individuals it serves. Thank you for your service to our community; it is most appreciated!

Sue



Having fun while Learning to Fish

A great group of students joined Learning Partner Volunteers on July 25th to fish and have fun from the dock at the DeYoung Natural Area. Volunteer, Dan Briggs, was on hand with his fishing poles and tackle, patiently helping kids learn to bait hooks, hook fish, and let them go again. Smiles all around as each child caught at least one fish, and some even caught a dozen! Many thanks to Volunteers Peg Gove, Nancy Fraser, Sylvia Keely, Judine Leavitt, Dan Briggs and our two moms in attendance!

Backpack Partnership

Our Learning Partners Program has been providing school supplies for our students for decades. This year we are thrilled to partner with Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club to provide backpacks and supplies to all of our students. Sunrise Rotary started the project in 2004 to provide school supplies and backpacks to students in need. By partnering with them this year, all of our students will be reached, and we will be able to stretch our budget a bit further. Thank you to our Volunteers that helped "stuff" backpacks, including Peg Gove, Judine Leavitt and Maxine Rideout. Many thanks to Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club Members!

Back-to-School Celebration Family Hike and Picnic

Learning Partner students, their families, and Learning Partner Volunteers were all invited to start the school year off with a celebration on August 29th. A guided nature hike at the Boardman River Nature Center was followed by a potluck picnic and the distribution of school supplies to all of the children in attendance (see above). Our students will be ready for their first day of school, September 4th!

<u>Learning Partner</u> **Meeting Dates & Changes:**

September 18th (instead of Sept. 4th)- see pg. 1 October 1st (regular 1st Tuesday meeting date)

At right: Learning Partner Volunteers and Youth enjoy a day of fishing!



Local Court Rule Approved!

The Supreme Court has approved our request to provide Grand Traverse County CASA volunteers with notice of adoption hearings, and so effective July 1, 2012:

"In the interest of justice, the CASA appointed to work for a child in any abuse and neglect case shall be afforded notice of any adoption hearing that may occur on behalf of the child."

Congratulations and many thanks to Judge Stowe for his work in making this happen.

September 18, 4-6:30 p.m. "Darkness to Light"

October 16, 4-6:00 p.m. Current Case Study

November 2 &3— Michigan CASA Conference Park Place Hotel, Traverse City

*Please note: We are collecting items with a "Northern Michigan" theme to put into a basket to be raffled at the CASA Conference. Items will be collected at our September and October meetings.

Also, greeters and registration desk volunteers will be needed. Let us know if you can help.





New Vision Academy 2012 was completed on Thursday, August 16th, with a celebratory pizza party for a successful summer of experiential sessions.

Many thanks to our volunteer group leaders, Erica Canfield and Robyn Savory, for their time and energy spent putting together a wonderful combination of interesting, educational and fun activities for a number of youth, over 6 weeks this summer.

Thanks to all of the volunteer facilitators for making the time to expose our youth to new ideas and skills to help them now and in the future.

Jill Kimball Niki Dunwiddie Jessica Beachy Chris Bonnell Sgt. Brandon Brinks Sandra Clark Heather Roesstorff Dr. James Reznich Don Kuehlhorn Trooper Kris Makowski Michael Herron Sharon Herron Phil Hamburg Elizabeth Stevens Misty Wright Marilyn Vlach Phil Hamburg Wanda Joseph

Kevin Shoults Kortney Russell Ellen Briggs Jeff Pataky Doug Dowdy Anna Serrano Tara Carroll Shana Murphy Bob Fernandez Inland SEAS Kiel Stevens Lisa Danto Melissa Johnson Jeremy Carlton Denise Busley John Boonstra **Kyler Lamie** Mark Judge

Learning about the Great Lakes with Inland SEAS.



Therapy dog,
Guiness, getting a lot
of attention from the
students.



Stressed?

There's an increasing evidence of a link between stress and health:

- Chronic stress may accelerate aging.
- High levels of stress appear to increase mortality rates.
- Depressed individuals who tend to respond poorly to stress are at higher risk for heart disease.

Try these three things to relieve your stress:

- Yoga
- Acupuncture
- Being more optimistic

Midcourse Correction Camp

Our Transport Volunteers have been busy this summer, taking youth to an alternative placement to juvenile detention.

Midcourse Correction Challenge Camp is an, "intense, highly supervised and structured 46-hour training weekend. The camps implement daily calisthenics, high adventure ropes courses, marching, teamwork initiatives, and work projects with seminars, or "Break Out Sessions," woven throughout the weekend."

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Barb Donaldson, says Midcourse is, "a therapeutic response of an experiential nature to help redirect thinking and behaviors of our youth on probation. We are getting good feedback from parents and youth on the effectiveness. There is also an honor level that youth can come back and continue on. After they graduate from high school, they're welcome to come and interview at Midcourse to be part of the staff to help other youth."

We would like to give a special thank you to Barb & Al Wilkins, Jim & Val Doman, and John & Bettie Wilkins for the time they have dedicated to driving down and picking up youth from this camp every 2 weeks all summer.



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Hello,

We are all looking forward to the beautiful colors of fall (while appreciating and-all things considered-a pleasant summer).

As mentioned in our last posting, summer is traditionally a quiet time for GTALC, and our August Board meeting was largely spent in setting an action agenda wihich focuses on awareness and outreach. So any public notice (ads, etc.) you see about us will be focused on connecting with potential clients.

One major campaign will be a series of lunches hosted by GTALC and offered to representatives of service organizations to increase awareness on their part of what GTALC can do for their clients.

Regarding our continuing efforts to upgrade support of our learners and their tutors, the office volunteers have completed updates and improvements in reporting and information access.

One of our board members recently attended a regional conference of literacy organizations and discovered that GTALC covers the largest service area, and has the largest number of active tutor/learners. Sad to say the reportage from the conference also included the dissolution of a neighboring council.

Given our knowledge that literacy challenges know no geographic boundaries, such news means that those needing support will not be served in that region.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DAVID L. STOWE, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE 280 Washington St, Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684 922-4827

PRE-SORT STD. U.S. POSTAGE PAID TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684 PERMIT NO. 229

Return Service Requested



All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless otherwise mentioned.

LEARNING PARTNERS

1st Tuesday—4:00—5:00 pm

September 18th– 4:00-6:30(change) October 2nd- 4:00-5:00



<u>CASA (Court Appointed Special</u> Advocate)

3rd Tuesday - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

September 18th– 4:00-6:30 October 16th-4:00-6:00



LITERACY COUNCIL

3RD Wednesday – 6:00 pm Traverse Area District Library

September 19th– 6:00 October 17th-6:00



Michigan Guardianship Association Fall Conference

When: Friday, October 12, 2012

Where: Radisson Hotel Lansing @ the Capital

Visit– www.michiganguardianship.org for more info.

